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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,681	09/22/2006	Per Georg Gabrielsson	003D.0087.U1(US)	2066
29683 7590 04/12/2007 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			EXAMINER TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/12/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

TH

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/564,681	GABRIELSSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho D. Ta	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/13/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 8-12, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bourdon (4,669,797).

In regard to claim 1, Bourdon discloses locking element 60 for locking and unlocking a receptacle connector 28 and a counterpart 10, the locking element 60 extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear side 62 and a mating side 76, the mating side 76 comprising two or more resilient beams 64 extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis and containing one or more locking structures 74 comprising an insertion surface (adjacent 76) and a locking surface (adjacent 74) disposed at angles with the longitudinal axis characterized in that the insertion surface and the locking surface have an inclined orientation with respect to the longitudinal axis wherein the angle of the locking surface is larger than the angle of the insertion surface but substantially smaller than 90 degrees.

In regard to the language “cable connector”, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

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In regard to claim 2, Bourdon discloses that the insertion surface and the locking surface substantially determine the locking structure 74.

In regard to claim 8, Bourdon discloses that that the locking element 60 comprises a retaining structure 24 adapted to keep the locking element 60 attached to the counterpart 10.

In regard to claim 9, Bourdon discloses connector system comprising a receptacle connector 28 and a board connector 10 wherein one or more locking elements 60 are applied to connect the receptacle connector 28 and board connector 10, the locking elements 60 having a locking structure 74 and extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear side 62 and a mating side 76 characterized in that the locking structure 74 is disposed on one or more resilient beams 64 extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

In regard to the language "cable connector", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

In regard to claim 10, Bourdon discloses that the locking structure comprises an insertion surface (adjacent 76) having an inclined orientation with respect to the longitudinal axis.

In regard to claim 11, Bourdon discloses that the locking structure 74 comprises a locking surface (adjacent 74) having an inclined orientation with respect to the longitudinal axis wherein the inclination angle of the locking surface is larger than the inclination angle of the insertion surface but substantially smaller than 90 degrees.

In regard to claim 12, Bourdon discloses that the locking structure 74 comprises an insertion surface (adjacent 76) and a locking surface (adjacent 74) disposed at angles with the longitudinal axis characterized in that the insertion surface and the locking surface have an inclined orientation with respect to the longitudinal axis wherein the angle of the locking surface is larger than the angle of the insertion surface but substantially smaller than 90 degrees, wherein the insertion surface and the locking surface substantially determine the locking structure 74.

In regard to claim 15, Bourdon discloses that a counterpart 10 comprises a locking structure 24 for receiving the locking element 74.

5. Claims 1, 5, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bourdon (4,669,797).

In regard to claim 1, Bourdon discloses locking element 42 for locking and unlocking a cable connector 10 and a counterpart 12, the locking element 42 extending along a longitudinal axis R, F between a rear side and a mating side, the mating side

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comprising two resilient beams 34, 36 extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis and containing one or more locking structures 140 comprising an insertion surface and a locking surface disposed at angles with the longitudinal axis R, F characterized in that the insertion surface and the locking surface have an inclined orientation with respect to the longitudinal axis wherein the angle of the locking surface is larger than the angle of the insertion surface but substantially smaller than 90 degrees.

In regard to claim 5, Bourdon discloses that the locking element 42 comprises one slit.

In regard to claim 7, Bourdon discloses that the mating ends of the resilient beams 34, 36 are rounded off.

6. Claims 9, 13, 14, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunert et al. (6,012,939).

In regard to claim 9, Kunert et al. discloses connector system comprising a first connector 12 and a second connector 10 wherein one locking element 20 is applied to connect the first connector 12 and the second connector 10, the locking element 20 having a locking structure 42 and extending along a longitudinal axis between a rear side and a mating side characterized in that the locking structure is disposed on one or more resilient beams 28 extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

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In regard to the language "cable connector", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

In regard to claim 13, Kunert et al. discloses two or more locking elements 20, 38 of different length along the longitudinal axis.

In regard to claim 14, Kunert et al. discloses the first connector and the second connector 10 connect to each other via an aperture 48 in a panel 16, the locking element 20 comprising a retaining structure 44 adapted to keep the locking element 20 attached to the panel 16.

In regard to claim 16, Kunert et al. discloses the locking structure comprises a threaded hole 54.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3, 4, 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regard to claim 3, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest a solid of

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revolution of the locking structure comprises a substantially conically shaped portion; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 4, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the locking structure is determined by a first solid of revolution having a first substantially conical shape and a second solid of revolution having a second substantially conical shape; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In regard to claim 6, the prior art fails to provide, teach or suggest the locking element comprises a hole at or near the mating side determining the resilient beams; and in combination with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
01/23/07